

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6418

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, ENRG, EEWHT, MX, CU, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-CUBAN OIL RELATIONSHIP AND EXCHANGE OF
INFORMATION ON OIL AND HARBOR DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN CONVERSATION AT LUNCHEON, INITIATED BY CUBAN AND
SOVIET DIPLOMATIC REPS IN MEXICO, EMBOFF DISCUSSED
VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SOVIET-CUBAN OIL ARRANGEMENT AND
APPARENT CUBAN NON-INTEREST IN MEXICAN OIL. BASED ON
COMMENTS MADE BY CUBAN, MEXICAN TERMS ARE NOT ATTRACTIVE
TO CUBANS UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. SUBSEQUENT REMARKS
BY SOVIET OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, INDICATES SOVIETS APPARENTLY
SEE OIL AS ONE MEANS TO WIDEN CRACK IN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE.

2. EXACT TERMS OF SOVIET-CUBAN OIL RELATIONSHIP
UNCERTAIN BUT RUSSIAN DID ADMIT CONTRACT WAS RECENTLY
REVISED UPWARD TO REFLECT HIGHER WORLD PRICES FOR OIL.
RUSSIAN APPEARED EAGER (PERHAPS MORE SO THAN HIS CUBAN
COLLEAGUE) TO FIND NEW SOURCES OF SUPPLY FOR CUBA CLOSER
TO HOME. THIS IS POSSIBLY AN INDICATION THAT THE RUSSIANS
ARE TIRING OF OIL BURDEN CUBA IMPOSES ON THEM.

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3. CUBAN MENTIONED EXPLORATION EFFORTS WERE UNDERWAY

IN COASTAL WATERS AROUND CUBA, USING RUSSIAN EQUIPMENT,
BUT SO FAR COULD REPORT NO SUCCESS.

4. IN CONCLUSION, RUSSIAN ASKED EMBOFF TO SUPPLY
MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON LATIN AMERICAN OIL DEVELOPMENTS.
EMBASSY PREPARED TO SEND COLLECTION OF PAPERS AND
DOCUMENTS OF UNCLASSIFIED NATURE IF DEPT. DOES NOT
OBJECT.

5. IN SEPARATE BUT RELATED DEVELOPMENT, EMBASSY HAS
BEEN APPROACHED BY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE LYKES LINES FOR
INFORMATION ON CUBAN HARBORS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A PORT
DIRECTORY EXISTS THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE. IF
DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE, IT IS REQUESTED
TO PROVIDE COPY DIRECTORY TO LYKES. JOVA

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